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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/674,265

Examiner

Jianchun Qin

Applicant(s)

OKABAYASHI, MASAAKI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/27/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DAVID MARTIN
SUPERVISOR
TEC

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Hristo I. Vachovsky, 393032041200 on December 19, 2005.

Please replace the Claims 1 and 7 with the following:

--1. A mixing method executed by a first mixing apparatus including a plurality of input terminals and a second mixing apparatus connected in cascade to at least one of the input terminals of the first mixing apparatus, [[wherein said at least one input terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade input,]] comprising: an input setting step of setting at least one audio signal input from the second mixing apparatus to said at least one input terminal as at least one cascade signal; an input computing step of performing arithmetic operations on at least one audio signal input to at least another input terminal; and a signal mixing step of mixing the at least one cascade signal and the at least one audio signal on which the arithmetic operations have been performed in said input computing step[[.]]; wherein said at least one input terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade input.--

--7. A program executed by a computer to cause a first mixing apparatus, including a plurality of input terminals and a second mixing apparatus connected in cascade to at least one of the input terminals of the first mixing apparatus, to execute a mixing method, [[wherein the at least one input terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade input,]] the program comprising: an input setting module for setting at least one audio signal input from the second mixing apparatus to said at least one input terminal as at least one cascade signal; an input computing module for performing arithmetic operations on at least one audio signal input to at least another input terminal; and a signal mixing module for mixing the at least one cascade signal and the at least one audio signal on which the arithmetic operations have been performed by said input computing module[[.]]; wherein said at least one input terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade input.--

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-9 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 1 and 2 is the inclusion of the claimed method step of setting at least one audio signal input from the second mixing apparatus to said at least one input terminal as at least one cascade signal, wherein

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said at least one input terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade input. It is this limitation found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 3 is the inclusion of the claimed method step of directly outputting the at least one of the plurality of output signals set as the cascade signal to the first mixing apparatus from an output terminal, wherein said output terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade output. It is this limitation found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 4 and 5 is the inclusion of the limitation of an input setting device that sets an audio signal input from the second mixing apparatus and received by the at least one input terminal as at least one cascade signal, wherein said at least one input terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade input. It is this limitation found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 6 is the inclusion of the limitation of a cascade outputting device that directly outputs the at least one signal set as the cascade signal to the other mixing apparatus, from an output terminal, wherein said output terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade output. It is this limitation found in the

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claim, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 7 and 8 is the inclusion of the limitation of an input setting module for setting at least one audio signal input from the second mixing apparatus to said at least one input terminal as at least one cascade signal, wherein said at least one input terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade input. It is this limitation found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 9 is the inclusion of the limitation of a cascade outputting module for directly outputting the at least one of plurality of output signals set as the cascade signal to the first mixing apparatus, from an output terminal, wherein said output terminal is nonexclusive to a cascade output. It is this limitation found in the claim, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jianchun Qin whose telephone number is (571) 272-5981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jianchun Qin
Examiner
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JQ 
December 20, 2005